

WAVE OF "SYLPHISM" NOW CROSSES THE BIG BRIDGE AND CAPTURES CITY OF CHURCHES

Craze for the Sinuous New Bend Rouses Staid Old Brooklyn as Well as Hackensack, Philadelphia and Other Villages, and the Women Are Vying to Excel Each Other.

Sylphism, or the habit of "La Sylphe bend" which originated in London as the "Grecian Bend" did years ago has reached Brooklyn, and it is hard to tell where it is going to end. The fact is, that ever since Miss Dorothy Bertrand introduced the fashion here, maids and matrons weighing 200 pounds and under—preferably under—have adopted it, and may be seen gliding about the shopping district, the hotels and restaurants, with their forms twisted into double horseshoe curves. But there is a certain air of self-consciousness, a lack of ease, about the women who so disport themselves that shows the pose has not yet become a habit. The stiffness will need a good many weeks before it can be rubbed off. But it's a fine sight to see lovely ladies sailing down the avenue like so many swans or fan-tail pigeons. All who see these strange figures marvel and admire, and those who are endowed by nature with adequate proportions go home before the pier glass to learn to do likewise. The women who have not the gifts of rounding surfaces and lithe waists may grin with assumed disdain at their la sylphic sisters, but in their hearts they have envy and desire.

The gymnastics and schools of Delmarie, the coresters and the dress-makers have been mobbed by women crazy to be put in shape for the new fad. What exercise won't do what's-else may, and if that fails, banting must be resorted to.

"La Sylphism" is not really impossible except for the excessively thin. The fashion is spreading with the rapidity of spinal meningitis. Up to a week ago the new pose had been only vaguely talked of, and now it has invaded Fulton street, the Broadway of Brooklyn, and every section in Manhattan from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil Creek. Broadway seethes with "La Sylphes." They float down Fifth avenue, and across One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street they strut like peacocks. Even the quiet byways of the Bronx have been visited.

Telegraphic despatches from Hackensack, Philadelphia, Hoboken and Poughkeepsie report the appearance there of "La Sylphes." It is probably only a matter of a few weeks before the fashion will reach Chicago and the spiny West. If Western girls take to riding broncos la sylphic-wise it will be a sight worth seeing.

Dame Fashion has done all she can to foster the new mode of carriage. By building jackets and sleeves very short and skirts very full the waist line shrinks to nothingness. As for the princess-suspender gown, it was created for "La Sylphes."

If "La Sylphes" fever continues to spread the waitresses in the quick-lunch restaurants will be carrying trays of food on their backs and department-store counters will be built twice as wide. As for the street cars and the standing room will accommodate only about one-fourth the former number.

HOW HERRMANN SPENT FORTUNE

Tells on Stand of Way in Which He Dissipated Thousands as "Angel" and in High Living—Claims He Is Poor Now.

The cross-examination of George Herrmann was continued to-day by Alexander C. Young in behalf of Florence Crosby Herrmann in the trial of her suit for a separation, before Justice Amend in Supreme Court.

Herrmann testified in a weak voice. Mr. Young dropped the line of questions as to the "soraps" between the pair, concerning which Herrmann has testified that his wife knocked him down, kicked him, attacked him with scissors, a carving knife and other weapons. Herrmann has also told resentfully of the interference of old Selah Decker, the farmer, in his offices, over "Florence," and Selah held him, he said, while two men carried their trunks back into the house when he wanted to leave the farm.

Herrmann was questioned to-day as to the amount he had inherited from his father. He said he didn't know, but it was about \$35,000 altogether, in stocks of various companies. He claims to be poor now.

"Now, how much did you lose as angel for the 'Isle of Champagne'?" asked Mr. Young.

"About \$50,000."

"Did you own the Hotel Gerlach at one time?"

"No, sir. I had very expensive apartments there for about six months, and spent from \$40,000 to \$50,000 on them."

"How much did you spend on Charlotte Keyes, who claimed to be your wife by a midnight marriage at Port Lee, and sued you for separation?"

"I spent a lot of money on her; maybe \$20,000."

"You had to make provision for all money to your first wife, Lena Kauffman, when she got her divorce, didn't you?"

"Yes, sir; she gets \$2,000 a year from the London company stock."

Mr. Young asked questions to show that Herrmann had transferred nearly a million dollars in securities to his stepmother when Charlotte Keyes and Mrs. Florence Crosby Herrmann began their suits. Herrmann admitted he had turned over his stock in the Herrmann companies to his stepmother under agreement, but he couldn't remember what the agreement was.

LATEST POSE OF NEW YORK'S LA SYLPH.



Donathey Bertrand.

EXPLAINS HIS M'KINLEY PLANS

Architect Magonigle Appears Before Trustees of Memorial Association at a Meeting in This City.

To make final arrangements for a monument to ex-President McKinley the trustees of the William McKinley Memorial Association met to-day at the Fine Arts Building, No. 256 West Fifty-seventh street. E. Van Buren Magonigle, the architect, who has designed an elaborate memorial, explained the details of his plans to the trustees. Later those present went to the Metropolitan Club, where they had luncheon as the guests of Cornelius N. Biles.

There are twenty trustees in the memorial association. Present to-day were Postmaster-General Cortelyou, Supreme Court Justice Day, Cornelius N. Biles, Vice-President Fairbanks, William A. Lynch, ex-Gov. Murphy of New Jersey, E. W. Bloomington and Gen. Duffield, of Detroit.

"It would be impossible to say just what form the McKinley memorial will take," said one of the trustees to-day. "Architect Magonigle has some plans which he thinks are extremely interesting. After we have considered these plans we will be able to decide what we want. But at present it cannot be said with any certainty whether the memorial will be in the form of a statue or something even more dramatic."

CONVICT FREED, RE-ARRESTED

Mulatto Servant Who Bound and Gagged Wife of Congressman Ketcham and Robbed House Awaits Trial.

Harry Smith, a mulatto, who, on July 27, 1903, while employed as a servant in the home of Congressman John H. Ketcham at No. 316 West Fifty-second street, bound and gagged Mrs. Ketcham and then looted the house, was arrested to-day by Detective Sergents McNaught and Farley.

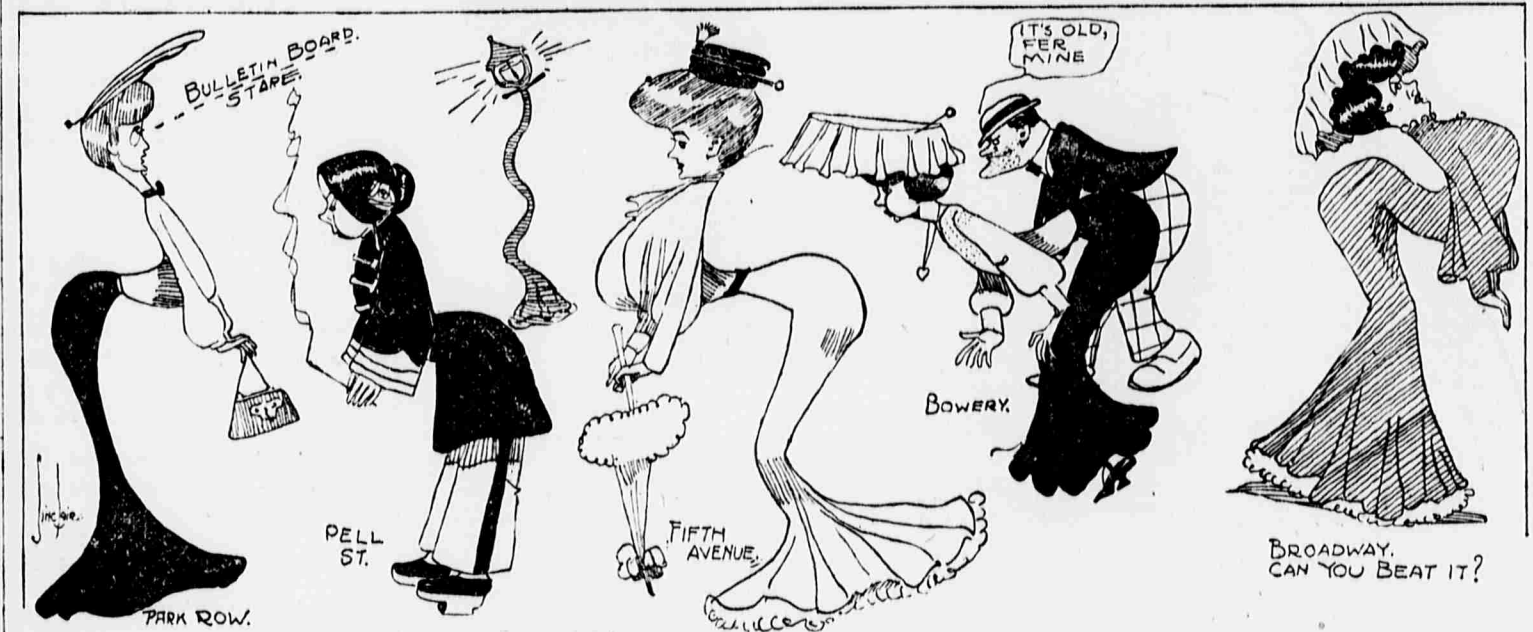
After the robbery Smith disappeared. He went to Far Rockaway, where he worked as a waiter. He was arrested in this city three months ago and sent to the penitentiary for a minor offense. He was recognized there and when his term expired yesterday Inspector O'Brien was notified.

Judge Cowing, in General Sessions, before whom Smith was arraigned to-day, committed him to the Tombs to await trial on indictments for assault and robbery.

RAFFLES IS IN TOWN!

Don't fail to read "The Idea of March" in the Saturday color supplement of The Evening World, May 13. It is the first story of E. W. Harnung's great series, "Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman." These are the final, but the most dramatic, of his stories. Don't miss them.

HOW THE SYLPH BEND HAS STIRRED UP THE STAIID CITY OF CHURCHES.



WHAT MAY BE SEEN ON BROADWAY TO-DAY.

Important Foreign and Telegraphic News.

Whistlers on Show.

PARIS, MAY 10.—An exhibition of Whistler's works, under the direction of the Department of Fine Arts, was opened to-day. The American and British Ambassadors were present. King Edward's Whistlers and other leading American and British collections were shown.

Carnegie Fund Chartered.

ALBANY, MAY 10.—The \$4,000,000 fund to establish a retiring pension fund for college teachers was formally incorporated to-day with the Secretary of State. The name of the corporation is the Carnegie Foundation. Its principal office is in Manhattan, N. Y., and the territory in which it shall operate is given as the United States, Canada and Newfoundland. The papers are signed by Nicholas Murray Butler, Alexander C. Humphreys, Henry E. Fitch, Robert A. Franks and Frank A. Zindler for the Board of Directors.

Held as Spies in Japan.

TOKIO, MAY 10.—M. A. E. Bouguin, a prominent Frenchman, and his stepson, F. Strange, an Englishman, have been arrested here as spies.

Bernhard Samuelson Dead.

LONDON, MAY 10.—Sir Bernhard Samuelson (the well-known authority on railroad rates, who for years was Chairman of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce) died in London this afternoon. He was born in 1820.

Hay Wires to Russia.

BAD NAUHEIM, GRAND DUCHY OF HESSE, GERMANY, MAY 10.—Count Hermann von Hay, who is here as the guest of Secretary Hay, Mr. Hay has had much telegraphic correspondence with the American Embassies at Paris and St. Petersburg.

Plague Bill Signed.

BERLIN, MAY 10.—The Reichstag reassembled to-day after the Easter recess and passed the first and second readings of the bill, approving the international sanitary agreement, signed in Paris, Dec. 3, 1903, for fighting the plague and cholera. The United States is also a signatory to this agreement.

More Trouble in Armenia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, MAY 10.—Advices from Bulis say there have been encounters between Armenian revolutionists and Turkish troops in the neighborhood of Mush, during which a number of men were killed or wounded. In addition to the Armenian bands already reported to have crossed the Persian frontier, other bands are said to be preparing to invade Ottoman territory.

Taken After Pistol Fight.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., May 10.—George H. Wright, for whose capture there was a reward of \$5,000, has been arrested at Williamson, after a desperate battle with officers. Marshal Johnson was shot in the leg during the fusillade. Wright is charged with having murdered Alfred Wilson, Albert Hayes and Andrew Jackson, who sat on his ranch at Provo, Utah. He fled the State and was not heard from until located at Williamson.

Father of Subways Dead.

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., May 10.—Delano T. Smith, who some years ago was prominent in Minnesota and in New York, and who represented Minnesota in both House and Senate, died here. He was appointed United States Tax Commissioner in Tennessee in 1863. He also promoted the Arcade Railway, the first subway in New York.

Klondike Millions Coming.

SEATTLE, WASH., MAY 10.—F. A. Wing, United States Assayer, states from information he has received from Alaska and the Northwest Territory this winter the output in gold from the northern country this year will total \$22,000,000, if not more. From the Klondike alone Mr. Wing predicts an output of from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000, the balance coming from the camps on the Alaskan side.

\$2,000 VERDICT FOR BOY'S DEATH

Brooklyn Jury Decides Policeman Must Pay for Accidentally Killing Young Hallinan by Pistol Shot.

James Hallinan, of No. 1525 Dean street, Brooklyn, got a judgment of \$2,000 against Policeman James McGowan, of the Atlantic avenue station, to-day before Justice Dickey in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn. Hallinan's wife was for \$10,000 damages for the death of his son, who was accidentally shot on Aug. 31 of last year by the policeman.

Young Hallinan was returning home from the theatre when he was hit by a bullet from McGowan's gun. The policeman had been scattering a crowd of Italians and had fired in the air, as he said. The wound proved fatal. At the former trial the jury disagreed. The father alleged that the policeman had been careless and negligent.

ROME GRADUATES MEET.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 10.—Graduates of the North American College of Rome held their twenty-first annual meeting in this city to-day, about 100 of the 300 members being present. A business meeting at which the President of the association, Rev. Dr. William Maher, of South Norwalk, presided, was held, after which there was a business session.

Miss Margaret Hubbard Ayer, The Evening World's Noted Expert on Womanly Beauty, Analyzes the "Bend" and Gives Some Advice to Those Who May Want to Adopt It

BY MARGARET HUBBARD AYER.

If women could do without spinal columns the "Sylphe" attitudes would be popular in no time, but, unlike ehad we are better off for a few bones, and the backbone in particular demands respectful treatment. Therefore the important "Sylphe" bend will never find favor with the multitude to whom a straight and strong back is more important than the latest fashionable contortion. The "Sylphe bend" is nothing more than an unnatural contortion of the body—especially when essayed in corsets—than the strain falls particularly on the kidneys, the backbone is crooked into a semi-circle and the tension in the shoulders is such that the lungs simply cannot do their work properly despite the fact that the chest is thrust far forward.

The natural position of the body is upright, hips slightly back and spine straight, chest slightly in the lead. The "Sylphe bend" is an extreme exaggeration of all this. Here the hips are thrust back, chest forced forward and shoulders bent backward again, the figure forming a perfect S. A professional contortionist or a Hindu Nautch girl could affect this bend without harming themselves. Neither of these people ever are foolish enough to wear corsets or tight clothes, though speaking of contortionists reminds me that they usually and their careers as contortionists, so the Hindu dancing girls alone can claim the "Sylphe bend" as their own. A straight back is a sign of physical and mental vigor. That is another reason for avoiding the "Sylphe bend." If the back is continually curved into a semi-circle the natural circulation is interfered with, and I can warrant the "Sylphe" that she will soon get to be as nervous as a witch, for along the spine goes the great nerve cable—the spinal cord, coming directly from the brain. As soon as there is a muscular strain on the back it affects this great nerve centre. Nature made us to stand upright, and she will telegraph her displeasure to these delicate nerves as soon as she is being doled for any length of time.

There is one more reason against "Sylphing" about town. We as women are all the time having our affections dinned into our ears from members of the graver sex. Don't let's give them such a good reason for their idea as this perfectly unnatural and artificial position. Of course it's a good thing to be supple enough to bend about like a willow maiden of the Sweet Alice Bena Bolt type, but a street crowded with these swaying figures would probably lead one to dream of good St. Patrick and early Irish history.

In case there is an epidemic of "Sylphitis" I suggest letting loose a few mice. No "Sylph" can run; she can barely totter, and a small mouse would teach a large girl the advantage of a straight back and the proper control of her feet.



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